

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-20

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----- 027280

R 211430Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9761

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 6136

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PGOV PFOR CI

SUBJECT: CHILEAN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS

REF: STATE 186005

1. PERSONNEL OF CHILEAN EMBASSY, INCLUDING AMBASSADOR RETTIG, HAVE BEEN CLOSE SOCIALLY TO INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS OF US MISSION AND INFORMATION BELOW HAS BEEN RECEIVED UNSOLICITED FROM THESE CONTACTS.

2. ACCORDING TO CHILEAN CHARGE ROLANDO STEIN, CHILEAN AMBASSADOR WAS CONVINCED BY HIS STAFF NOT DO ANYTHING RASH BUT TO SPEND SOME TIME IN BRAZIL PLANNING HIS FUTURE. THE AMBASSADOR HAS AGREED TO DO THIS. IN THE OPINION OF HIS STAFF, THE AMBASSADOR, WHILE A LIFE-LONG FRIEND OF ALLENDE'S, WAS ESSENTIALLY A MODERATE AND HAD ACTED IN A COMPLETELY CORRECT MANNER. PRIOR TO THE COUP, THE CHILEAN AMBASSADOR'S WIFE INFORMED A US EMBASSY WIFE THAT THEY WERE ESSENTIALLY PENNILESS AND WERE CONCERNED AS TO WHAT THE FUTURE WOULD BRING.

3. STEIN HEARD HE HAD BECOME CHARGE THROUGH THE BRAZILIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY SINCE HE WAS HAVING DIFFICULTY COMMUNICATING WITH SANTIAGO. BOTH STEIN AND SECOND
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SECRETARY HERNAN SANCHEZ HAVE NOT IN PAST HIDDEN THEIR

DISTASTE FOR THE ALLENDE REGIME AND THEIR DISMAY AT INCREASING POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DETERIORATION IN CHILE. HERNAN ROJAS, CHILEAN AIR FORCE ATTACHE, HAS BEEN HIGHLY VOCAL IN HIS ANTAGONISM TO THE ALLENDE REGIME. EACH OF THE ABOVE WOULD RECITE THEIR OWN CATALOG OF HORRORS UNDERGONE BY FAMILY AND FRIENDS UNDER THE ALLENDE REGIME. THE BASIC DIFFERENCE IS THAT THEY WERE MORE CIRCUMSPECT PRIOR TO THE COUP AND NOW DO SO OPENLY.

4. STEIN INFORMED EMBASSY OFFICER THAT IT WOULD BE IMPORTANT FOR US TO RECOGNIZE JUNTA SOON AND TO BEGIN MASSIVE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. (AT RECEPTION EVENING SEPTEMBER 20 STEIN NOTED THAT BOTH ARGENTINA AND PERU HAD ALREADY RECOGNIZED--HIS TOTAL COUNT WAS FIFTEEN--AND THAT HE HOPED THE USG WOULD NOT WAIT TOO MUCH LONGER.) HE CONSIDERED CHILEAN ECONOMIC SITUATION DISASTROUS WHICH MADE POLITICAL CONTROL HIGHLY FRAGILE AND EVENTUAL POLITICAL DIRECTION TENUOUS. STEIN ALSO FELT THAT JUNTA WOULD HAVE TO STAY IN POWER FOR TWO TO THREE YEARS IN ORDER TO REESTABLISH "DISCIPLINE" IN THE POPULATION AND TO PROCEED WITH RECONSTRUCTION.

5. IT WAS STEIN'S VIEW THAT US POLICY TOWARD CHILE WOULD HAVE TO BE MORE "ADROIT AND SOPHISTICATED" THAN IN THE PAST. GREATER INTEREST WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN IN CHILEAN MATTERS AND THE JUNTA WOULD HAVE TO BE HELPED WITHOUT BEING PUSHED IN HAM HANDED WAY. HE NOTED THAT FREI WAS STILL HIGHLY RESPECTED ALTHOUGH TARNISHED BY HIS INITIAL INDECISIVENESS WITH REGARD TO ALLENDE. RADOMIRO TOMICH WAS CONSIDERED MUCH TO BLAME FOR THE ASCENDANCY OF ALLENDE AND HIS POLITICAL FUTURE WAS HIGHLY DOUBTFUL. GABRIEL VALDEZ WAS THOROUGHLY DISLIKED IN THE CHILEAN FOREIGN MINISTRY AND STEIN PERSONALLY HOPED HE WOULD NOT REGAIN A POSITION OF POLITICAL IMPORTANCE. WHILE FREI WAS THE GREAT HOPE OF MANY CHILEANS, HE THOUGHT IT CONCEIVABLE THAT OTHER NEW LEADERS WOULD EMERGE.

6. COMMENT: EMBASSY OFFICERS IN DEALING WITH COMMENTS HERE BY CHILEAN AND OTHERS CONCERNING TIMING OUR "RECOGNITION" HAVE OF COURSE TAKEN PAINS TO EXPLAIN THE CONFIDENTIAL

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DIVERSE FACTORS AT WORK IN THE PROCESS OF "CONTINUING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS" ON OUR PART. THERE IS SOME APPRECIATION OF THE LARGER CONTEXT WITHIN WHICH THE USG MUST CONSIDER THE MATTER BUT THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT IN THE BRAZILIAN FOREIGN OFFICE, THE BRAZILIAN MILITARY, THE CHILEAN EMBASSY IN BRASILIA AND AMONG MANY OTHER MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY OUR EXPLICIT ACT OF "CONTINUATION" WILL BE GREETED WITH APPROVAL AND SOME

RELIEF.
CRIMMINS

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